



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads in Multi-Million Dollar Art Theft Case

A 45-year-old man pleaded no contest today to one count of receiving stolen property for attempting to sell stolen artwork worth millions of dollars, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Marna Miller said Raul Espinoza (dob 6/28/69) also admitted that the crime involved the taking of more than \$500,000.

Espinoza was immediately sentenced to four years and four months in state prison.

A restitution hearing in case SA089051 is scheduled on March 25 in Department C of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch.

Espinoza met with undercover FBI agents on Oct. 24, 2014 and agreed to sell them nine precious paintings valued at more than \$5 million, the prosecutor said.

The paintings had been stolen out of an Encino home in 2008, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the FBI.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.